

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An alkaline storage battery having a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator, and an alkaline electrolyte,

wherein the separator comprises:

a nonwoven fabric made of a plurality of papermaking web layers arranged in laminated form, and

the separator satisfies the relation of  $8.8 \leq A \times B \times C \leq 15.2$ , where A is an area density (g/m<sup>2</sup>), B is a specific surface area (m<sup>2</sup>/g), and C is a thickness (mm).

2. (Original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1,

wherein the nonwoven fabric forming the separator is composed of a plurality of papermaking web layers different in at least any one of the area density, the specific surface area, the thickness, and sulfonation degree.

3. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1-~~or 2~~,

wherein the liquid amount of the electrolyte is in a range of 3.0 g or more to 3.5 g or less per 1 Ah of theoretical capacity of the positive electrode.

4. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1,

wherein the separator is sulfonated to be hydrophilic by sulfuric anhydride.

5. (Original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 4,  
wherein the papermaking web layers have at least two types of fibers different in  
sulfonation degree.

6. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery according to ~~any one of claims 1~~  
~~to 5~~ claim 1,

wherein each of the plurality of papermaking web layers contains split type compound  
fibers by 30 wt.% or more to 50 wt.% or less.

7. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery ~~according~~ according to claim 6,  
wherein the split type compound fibers are composed of at least two types of fibers  
selected from among polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, polymethyl pentene, and  
polybutylene.